Patent claims

1.

A boom (1A), especially for containing oil spills and/or other similar pollution at sea, in rivers or on water surfaces, comprising an elongate body consisting of an element having positive buoyancy relative to the surrounding medium, so that a freeboard (5) is provided, and a hanging skirt (6), which boom (1A) is of the type that is usually towed behind towing vessels (2) so that the boom (1A) basically forms a U-shape having side arms (4) that define a front opening (10) between them, which arms extend from a rear area or an apex (7) when the towing vessels or mooring (2) pulls at the free ends of the arms of the boom (1A) in order to tow the boom (1A), characterised in that the skirt (6) is provided with a draught that varies from a minimum size or depth in the area at the boom apex (7) to a maximum size or depth at the free towing ends (15) of the side arms (4) of the boom (1A).

2.

A boom according to claim 1, characterised in that the boom (1A) is produced in such manner that it can be split at the apex area (7), thereby producing two substantially identical boom halves, each of which can be used separately as a boom.

3.

A boom according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the boom arms (4) have different lengths.

4.

A boom according to one of claims 1 - 3, characterised in that the boom arms (4) can be sectioned so that units are provided which can function separately as an independent boom (1A), or optionally may be joined together.

5.

A boom according to one of claims 1 - 4, characterised in that the draught of the skirt (6) varies linearly, or optionally in a concave or stepped manner, or as a combination of variations.

6.

A boom according to one of claims 1, 3 - 5, characterised in that only one of the arms of the boom (1A) extending out from the apex (7) is in use, for example, for collecting, channelling or guiding oil.

7.

A boom according to one of claims 1 - 6, characterised in that the skirt (6) is made integral with the boom apex (7), the skirt being made having a greater draught at the apex (7) than in the adjacent portions which are made having a minimum draught before the skirt (6) again increases in draught.

8.

A boom according to one of claims 1 - 7, characterised in that the skirt has a minimum draught of about 0.1 metres and a maximum draught of 3 metres.

9.

A boom according to one of claims 1 - 8, characterised in that the boom arms (4) or the whole boom (1A) with two boom arms (4) is moored in a river or other current of water.

10.

The use of the boom according to claims 1 - 9, connected to an inline skimmer, apex boom or the like at the boom apex (7) for collecting oil spills or the like.